

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 16 and amend Claims 5, 15, and 17, as follows.

1-4. Cancelled.

5. (currently amended) In a method of building a tire including a tread cap the improvement comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a green tire having a tread region without the tread cap;

(b) forming the tread cap as a non-marking tread cap,

wherein the tread cap consists of natural and synthetic rubber, ethylene propylene rubber, polybutadiene rubber, carbon black, white carbon, rubber oil, zinc oxide, stearic acid, tackifier, microcrystallized wax, antioxidant, antiozonant, and optionally stearic acid, sulphuramide, mercapto benzothiazole, thiuram, insoluble Sulfur and Sulfur.

(c) integrating the tread cap with the tread region of the green tire; and

(d) curing the green tire with the tread cap to create a tire having the tread cap of non-marking composition.

6-7. Cancelled.

8. (previously amended) A method of building a tire including a tread cap comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a green tire having a tread region without the tread cap;

(b) forming the tread cap as a non-marking tread cap, the composition of the tread cap comprising between 30-70 parts of natural and synthetic rubber, 20-50 parts of ethylene propylene rubber, 11-60 parts of carbon black, 11-60 parts of white carbon, and 7.5-12.5 parts of rubber oil, the parts being parts by weight of the tread cap; and

(c) integrating the tread cap with the tread region of the tire.

9. (original) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, the tread cap further comprising 1-5 parts of zinc oxide, 0-1 parts of stearic acid, 7-30 parts of tackifier, 7-12 parts of microcrystallized wax, 1-5 parts of antioxidant, 1-5 parts antiozonant, 0-1 parts of sulphuramide, 0-1 parts of mercapto benzothiazole, 0-1 parts of thiuram, 0-1 parts of insoluble Sulfur and 0-2 parts of Sulfur.

10. (original) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, the tread cap further comprising a colorant for creating a colored, non-marking tread.

11. (previously amended) The method of building a tire according to Claim 8, further comprising the step (d) of curing the green tire with the tread cap to create a tire having the tread cap of a non-marking composition.
12. (previously amended) A tire made by the process of Claim 8.
- 13-14. (cancelled)
15. (previously amended) The tire of Claim 12, wherein the tread cap further includes polybutadiene rubber, microcrystallized wax, antioxidant and antiozonant.
16. (cancelled)
17. (currently amended) A tire made by the process The tire of Claim 5, the non-marking tread cap wherein the having between 30-70 parts of natural and synthetic rubber is present in the amount of 30-70 parts, the 20-50 parts of ethylene propylene rubber is present in the amount of 20-50 parts, the 11-60 parts of carbon black is present in the amount of 11-60 parts, the 11-60 parts of white carbon is present in the amount of 11-60 parts, and the 7.5-12.5 parts of rubber oil is present in the amount of 7.5-12.5 parts, the parts being parts by weight of the tread cap.
18. (currently amended) The tire of Claim 17, the tread cap further consisting of comprising 1-5 parts of zinc oxide, 0-1 parts of stearic acid, 7-30 parts of tackifier, 7-12 parts of microcrystallized wax, 1-5 parts of antioxidant, 1-5 parts antiozonant, 0-1 parts of sulphuramide, 0-1 parts of mercapto benzothiazole, 0-1 parts of thiuram, 0-1 parts of insoluble Sulfur and 0-2 parts of Sulfur.
19. (previously amended) The tire of Claim 18, wherein the tire is a pneumatic bias tire.
20. (original) The tire of Claim 19, further comprising a colorant for creating a colored, non-marking tread.